

FBIS 79

LEBANON WILL DENY ENTRY OF SOVIET ARMS FOR PLO

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(EXCERPTS) BEIRUT, AUG 3 (AFP)--LEBANON WILL NOT PERMIT THE ENTRY OF ANY SOVIET ARMS WHICH MAY BE PROMISED TO THE PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT INSIDE LEBANON, MINISTER OF STATE ALBERT MUKHAYBIR SAID HERE TODAY.

HE WAS COMMENTING ON PRESS REPORTS THAT PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANISATION (PLO) LEADER YASIR 'ARAFAT, NOW ON THE FOURTH DAY OF AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO MOSCOW, HAD BEEN PROMISED ULTRAMODERN SOVIET ARMS, PARTICULARLY FOR ANTI-TANK AND ANTI-AIRCRAFT PURPOSES.

DR. MUKHAYBIR SAID LEBANON HAD MADE IT CLEAR AT AN EMERGENCY ARAB DEFENCE COUNCIL MEETING IN CAIRO A MONTH AGO THAT IT WOULD REFUSE ANY ARMAMENTS OF PALESTINIAN REFUGEE CAMPS WITHIN ITS TERRITORY, BECAUSE IT ALONE CARRIED RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHAT HAPPENED.

DR. MUKHAYBIR SAID HE WONDERED, IF TODAY'S REPORTS WERE CORRECT, WHY THE SOVIET UNION WOULD SUPPLY THE PALESTINIANS WITH ARMS WHEN IN LARGE MEASURE IT PLAYED A PART IN THE RECENT SYRIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT ON THE GOLAN FRONT, AND CALLED FOR A JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN THE AREA.

DR. MUKHAYBIR SAID HE ALSO BELIEVE AN EGYPTIAN-JORDANIAN COMMUNIQUE LAST MONTH, DENYING THE PLO THE RIGHT TO REPRESENT PALESTINIANS INSIDE JORDAN, CONSTITUTED AN "INTELLIGENT SOLUTION IN PRINCIPLE."

THE PALESTINIAN ORGANISATION HAD HASTENED VIOLENTLY TO OPPOSE THE COMMUNIQUE, GIVING THE IMPRESSION THAT DISAGREEMENT NOW INVOLVED A STRUGGLE FOR POWER RATHER THAN LIBERATION OF TERRITORIES, DR. MUKHAYBIR ADDED.

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